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From: 37033-88845808@requests.muckrock.com
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 3:53 PM
To: FOIA HQ
Subject: Freedom of Information Request: Scott Pruitt's chlorpyrifos emails

May 1, 2017

Environmental Protection Agency
National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act for records of communications to, from, or drafted by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt that contain the term "chlorpyrifos." Please include emails, letters, memos, call logs, meeting requests and agendas, and records contained in the Correspondence Management System. You may exclude mass distribution contacts (e.g., e-newsletters) that were not directed specifically to Administrator Pruitt. Please limit the search from February 17, 2017 to the date this request is processed.

I respectfully request that you waive all fees in connection with this request as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The Sierra Club is a national environmental nonprofit with no commercial interest in obtaining the request information. Instead, our organization intends to analyze and disseminate the requested information free of charge so that the public can be better informed about and meaningfully participate in the debate over pesticide usage.

The subject matter of the requested records is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government by disclosing how decisions are being made -- and reversed -- at the EPA and how the agency views a highly-controversial pesticide. Chlorpyrifos has been the subject of many articles recently after a proposed agricultural ban was blocked and companies began pressuring the agency to set aside the results of a study on impacts to endangered species. Administrator Pruitt was the decisionmaker in the ban's denial, and the companies are directing their new chlorpyrifos letters to the Administrator's Office.

Here are two sample articles to demonstrate existing public interest:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/03/29/521898976/will-the-epa-reject-a-pesticide-or-its-own-scientific-evidence>

http://www.valleymorningstar.com/business/article_30dde5c7-b171-54ac-ab9b-f3d1dd1ecc53.html

Even the EPA recognizes the newsworthiness of this issue, as the agency published a news release on March 29 about the ban's denial: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-denies-petition-ban-widely-used-pesticide-0>

The Sierra Club and its supporters have demonstrated expertise in the subject area, specifically the development of policies designed to safeguard public health and the environment from toxic chemicals. Our supporters have filed hundreds of thousands of public comments to agencies related to these threats.

The Sierra Club has the ability and intention to disseminate the information it receives through this request. The information may be shared through emails to an audience of hundreds of thousands of people, Facebook and Twitter posts reaching thousands of individuals, articles on our website, and analysis provided to the media.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Alexander Rony
Sierra Club

Filed via MuckRock.com
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For mailed responses, please address (see note):
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